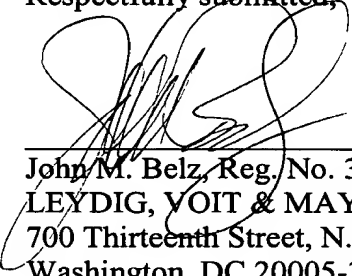


*REMARKS*

Claims 2-5 and 8-13 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) or §103 and these rejections are respectfully traversed. However claims 2-5 and 8-13 have been canceled to simplify the prosecution of this application. The cancellation of these claims is without prejudice to presenting one or more of these claims in a continuation application.

The rejection of claim 1 is respectfully traversed. According to the Office Action, column 1, line 60 through column 2, line 10 of Nakano et al. teaches controlling porosity. This assertion is respectfully traversed. Column 1, line 60 through column 2, line 10 teaches eliminating porosity. It is inconceivable that one of ordinary skill in the art would follow these teachings to increase porosity, when these teachings expressly state that the "pores in the composite should be decreased to the fullest extent possible" (Column 2, line 4 and 5) and that the "material has a very small pore content (15% in porosity)" (Column 6, lines 46 and 47). One of ordinary skill in the art reading Nakano et al., the principal reference, would never be motivated to do exactly the opposite of the teachings of Nakano et al, i.e., would never be motivated to increase porosity. Consequently, combining Nakano et al. with Takahar to provide a composition having a porosity of >50% is improper under 35 USC §103(a). It is respectfully contended that claims 1 and 14-16 are patentable over the cited references.

Respectfully submitted,



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